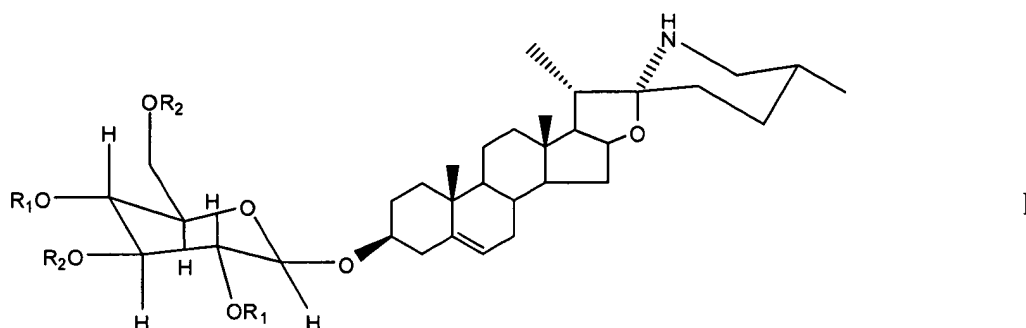


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following Listing of Claims. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9 are pending.

Listing of Claims

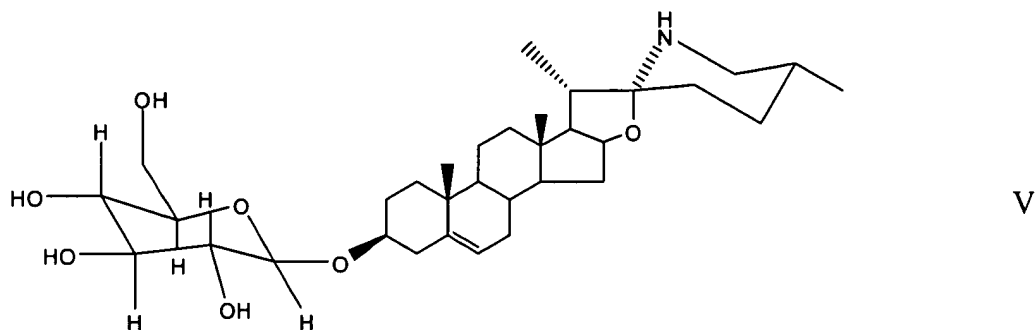
1. (Previously Presented) A glucose-solasodine conjugate of the general formula I



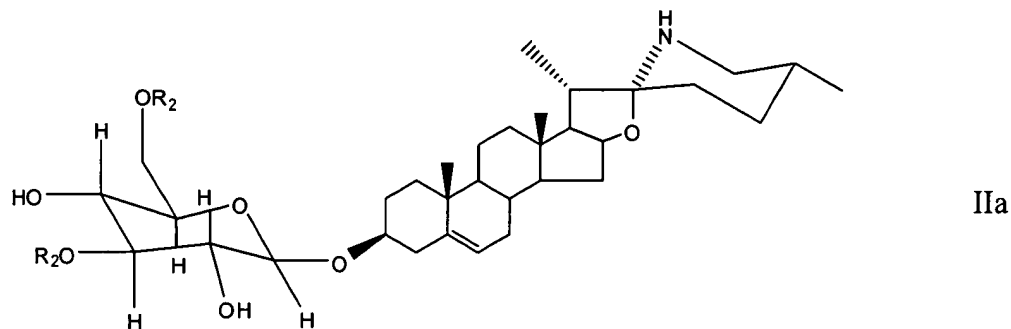
wherein each of R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and represents a benzoyl or a pivaloyl group.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of the glucose – solasodine conjugate comprising the reaction of solasodine with tetra-O-benzoyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide, tetra-O-acetyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide or tetra-O-pivaloyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide;

followed by optionally de-protecting the obtained glycoside to yield a compound of the formula V



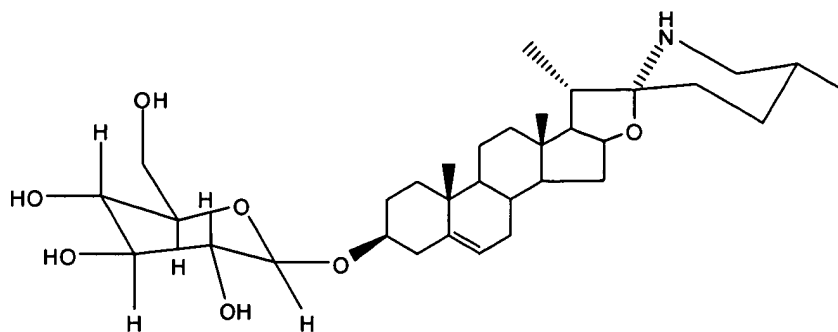
and reesterification of the most reactive hydroxyl groups (OH-3 and OH-6) to yield a compound of the formula IIa



wherein R₂ is selected from pivaloyl or acetyl

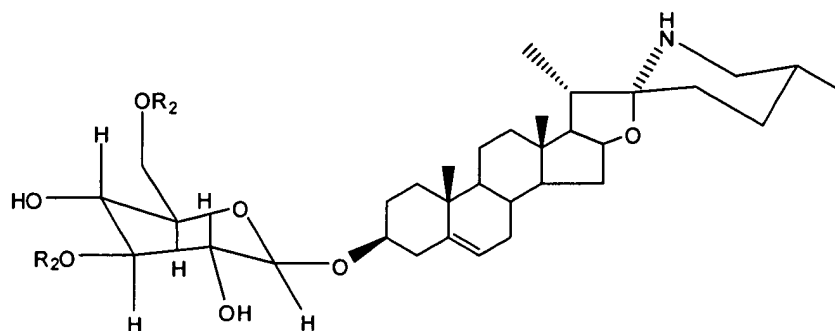
3. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of solamargine comprising the reaction of solasodine with tetra-O-benzoyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide, tetra-O-acetyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide or tetra-O-pivaloyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide;

followed by optionally de-protecting the obtained glycoside to yield a compound of the formula V



V

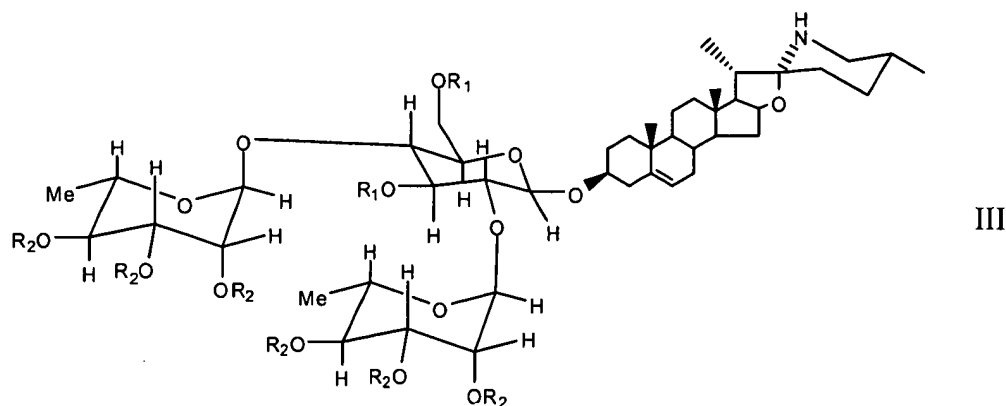
and reesterification of the most reactive hydroxyl groups (OH-3 and OH-6) to
yield a compound of the formula IIa



IIa

wherein R₂ is pivaloyl and

the glycosylation of the diol of formula IIa, ~~where in R₂ is pivaloyl~~, with
 tri-O-benzoyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl bromide or tri-O-pivaloyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl
 trichloroacetimidate to yield protected solamargine of formula III (1) which is de-esterified to
 yield solamargine of formula III (2)



- (1) $R_1 = \text{Piv}$ and $R_2 = \text{Benzoyl or Pivaloyl}$
- (2) $R_1 = R_2 = \text{H}$

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~or 4~~, wherein the glycosylation reaction is carried out in the presence of a promoter selected from silver trifluoromethane sulfonate (silver triflate), boron trifluoride diethyl etherate, trimethylsilyl triflate bromide, N-iodosuccinimide or dimethyl thiomethyl sulfonium triflate, silver trifluoromethyltriflate.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the protected glycoside is deprotected in methanol-dichloromethane solution by treatment with sodium methoxide, followed by neutralization with solid CO_2 or mild acid ion-exchange resin.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the most reactive hydroxyl groups (OH-3 and OH-6) are protected by reesterification with pivaloyl chloride in pyridine solution.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the protected solamargine is de-esterified by treatment with a base selected from sodium methoxide or sodium hydroxide in methanol-dichloromethane solution or a methanol-tetrahydrofuran-water mixture followed by neutralization with solid CO₂ or mild acid ion-exchange resin.